

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: TORII, et al.

Filed: July 31, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING SAMPLES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 31, 2001

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination thereof, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph at page 1, lines 1-5 (beginning after the title "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION") and substitute therefor the following new paragraph:

--This application is a Continuation application of application Serial No. 08/470,443, ^{-- now abandoned --} filed June 6, 1995, which is a Continuation-in-part application of application Serial No. 07/638,378, ^{-- now US Patent 5,200,013 --} filed January 7, 1991, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, which is a Divisional application of application Serial No. ^{07/}477,474, filed February 9, 1990. ^{-- now US Patent 5,007,981 --}

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